Swadlincote District Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1898.

John Hamilton, M.D.

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SWADLINCOTE
DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR 1898,

Swadlincote,

February 3rd, 1899.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1898, I would commence by saying that I have estimated the population of the district—up to the middle of last year—at 15,500.

The total number of deaths was 281; viz, 158 males and 123 females, giving a death rate for the year of 18·12 per 1,000.

Death rate for	1894	... 17·57	per 1,000
,, ,,	1895	... 13·08	
,, ,,	1896	... 13·47	
,, ,,	1897	... 14·98	

The deaths registered from zymotic diseases were 53, giving a death rate from this cause at 3·41 per 1,000; in the deaths from zymotic causes I have again included those from Diarrhœa, Whooping Cough, Measles and Influenza, none of which diseases are scheduled under the Notification of Diseases Act.

The death rate from zymotic causes was in

1894	... 2·81	per 1,000
1895	... 1·52	
1896	... 1·02	
1897	... 1·40	

The total number of births registered was 631; viz., 326 males and 305 females, the birth rate for the year was 41·37.

Compared with	1894	... 41·97	per 1,000
,, ,,	1895	... 42·03	
,, ,,	1896	... 39·79	
,, ,,	1897	... 37·85	

This equals a *net* increase during the year of 168 males and 182 females, a higher birth rate and increased death rate for males—much the same as last year.

Death Rate for Swadlincote District Urban District Council as required by the Local Government Act, 1894.

NAME OF DISEASE		UNDER 5 YEARS	OVER 5 YEARS
	Small Pox	0	0
	Scarlatina	0	0
	Diphtheria	0	0
	Membranous Croup	3	0
FEVERS	Typhus	0	0
FEVERS	Enteric or Typhoid	0	1
FEVERS	Continued	0	0
FEVERS	Relapsing	0	0
FEVERS	Puerperal	0	0
	Cholera	0	0
	Erysipelas	0	1
	Measles	23	1
	Whooping Cough	3	0
	Diarrhœa & Dysentery	14	0
	Rheumatic Fever	0	2
	Ague	0	0
	Bronchitis, Pleurisy and Pneumonia	35	23
	Heart Disease	1	17
	Phthisis	0	9
	Influenza	0	7
	Injuries	5	10
		84	71
	All other Diseases	72	54

Total deaths from all causes and at all ages ... 281

On referring to Table A, accompanying this, we find the summary of deaths at subjoined ages to be: children under one year, 106; one year and under five, 50; five years and under fifteen, 11; persons aged fifteen and under twenty-five, 15; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 67; sixty-five years and upwards, 32.

The mortality under one year equals a death-rate of 167·98 per 1,000 of births registered, as compared with that of

1894 ... 134·22		
1895 ... 132.18	per 1,000 of Births registered.	
1896 ... 123·28		
1897 ... 164·31		

The death-rate from sixty-five years and upwards was 2·09 per 1,000 as compared with

1894 ... 2·04	
1895 ... 3·46	per 1,000
1896 ... 3·54	
1897 ... 2·80	

The second part of my report on the Table marked B deals with new cases of infectious sickness. From this table it will be seen that 70 cases were reported to me during the year under the Notification of Diseases Act.

Small Pox. No case of this disease occurred during the year.

Scarlet Fever. Only seventeen cases were reported to me during the year and no death occurred from this cause.

Typhoid Fever. Sixteen cases occurred during the year. In only one instance was the water-supply at fault, the water being obtained from a well which was immediately closed. One death was reported from this cause.

Erysipelas. Twenty-five cases with one death were registered during the twelve months.

Membranous Croup. Three cases, all ending fatally, occurred. After a most searching enquiry in each instance, no assignable cause could be made out.

Diphtheria. No case was reported under this head.

Measles. Twenty-four deaths were registered during the twelve months. The number of cases which occurred in the early spring, and up to the middle of the year was very great. I could not even approximately arrive at the number of cases which occurred—the disease not being scheduled under the Notification Act. As the Council will remember, the schools throughout the district were closed, and a special report was made by me on the epidemic; a copy of which was forwarded to the Local Government Board.

Whooping Cough. From this cause three deaths were registered. The disease was somewhat prevalent at the beginning of the year.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia. Fifty-eight deaths were reported from these causes.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery. Fourteen deaths were registered from diarrhœa; all occurring in children under five years.

Water Supply. This, I am glad to say, has been good in quality, and abundant in quantity.

Disinfecting Chamber. I am sorry to say that your Council have not moved in this matter since my last report, and would earnestly urge the Council to provide at once one of the most essential things for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease.

Infectious Diseases Hospital. When the combined scheme—for which the County Council called a meeting at Swadlincote during the year, to hear objections from neighbouring authorities who might be opposed to it—will be carried out, there is no evidence to show; but of its necessity there can be no doubt.

Sewerage. Many complaints were made during the year of the smell from the road ventilators, and extra flushing chambers were provided by the Council, which considerably abated the nuisance.

Overcrowding and Foul Condition of Houses. Several cases were inspected during the year and the nuisances abated.

Scavenging. This, I am glad to be able to report, has been more satisfactorily performed since the Council have taken the matter under their own control.

Inspection. I have made several periodic and systematic inspections of the district, including the cowsheds, dairies, and slaughter-houses, and by monthly reports and otherwise, informed you as to the health of the district. No case of diseased meat or fish was offered for sale; no occasion arose to take proceedings under the Adulteration of Foods Act; or in the matter of offensive trades, bakehouses and workshops.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN HAMILTON, M.D.

TABLE A.

DEATHS during the year 1898, in the Swadlincote District Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

AGES AT WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED.

Under 1 year	106
1 and under 5 years	50
5 ,, 15 ,, ...	11
15 ,, 25 ,, ...	15
25 ,, 65 ,, ...	67
65 years and upwards	32
	281

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Under 5 years.	5 years & upwards.
Membranous Croup	3	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	0	1
Erysipelas	0	1
Measles	23	1
Whooping Cough	3	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery ...	14	0
Rheumatic Fever	0	2
Phthisis	0	9
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	35	23
Heart Disease	1	17
Influenza	0	7
Injuries	5	10
All Other Diseases	72	54
	156	125
	281	

TABLE B.

POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of New Cases of INFECTIOUS Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Swadlincote District Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

POPULATION.

Census, 1891	13,889
Estimated to middle of 1898 ...	15,500

BIRTHS.

Births registered during year ...	631

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

	Under 5 years.	5 years & upwards.
Scarlatina	6	11
Diphtheria	1	4
Membranous Croup	3	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	1	15
Puerperal Fever	0	1
Erysipelas	3	25

TABLE C.

Summary of SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the year 1898, in the Urban Sanitary District of Swadlincote.

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCE.	Informal Notices served by Inspector.	Legal Notices served by Authority.	Nuisances abated.
Defective Traps, Inlets, and Drains	20	6	20
Drains obstructed	10	0	10
Insanitary Privies and Ashpits	30	0	30
Insufficient Closet accommodation	40	0	40
Conversion of Privies into W.C's.	23	6	23
Defective Water Closets	3	0	3
Urinals Defective	2	0	2
Water Supply	100	0	100
Offensive accumulations	12	0	12
Animals improperly kept	8	0	8
Pigsties	8	0	8
Overcrowding	8	0	8
Foul Condition of Houses	6	0	6
	270	12	270

TABLE C – *Continued.*

DWELLING-HOUSES.—ESTIMATED NUMBER 3,200.

Number Inspected	72
Informal Notices to Repair Houses ...	6
Number of Houses Repaired ...	6
Reported as Unfit for Habitation ...	6
Legal Notices to Close Houses ...	2
Number of Houses Closed	6
Number of Infected Houses ...	20
Number Disinfected	20
Inspections of Work in Progress ...	12

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on Register	32
Number of Inspections	128

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	17
Number of Inspections	68
Number of Notices served for Infringements of Bye-Laws ...	1

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register	25
Number of Inspections	100
Number of Notices served for Infringement of Bye-Laws ...	1
Total Number of Inspections made ...	380

JABEZ HARVEY, Inspector of Nuisances.